

Appln No. 10/829,123

Am dt date December 20, 2005

Reply to Office action of September 20, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An instrument system for comprising pedicle screws (1) having an internal thread (3) in their head (2), said thread accepting a grub screw (5) with an external diameter D_1 in the direction of the screw axis (21) to fixedly clamp a connection part (4) which projects transversely to the screw axis (21) into the head, further comprising: at least two holders with a tubular part, at least one of said holders being provided with a holder (6) with projections (7) configured for engaging in a shape matched manner at the head of the pedicle screws; and a screwdriver (10) with a diameter D_4 being able adapted to be positioned at the grub screw (5), comprising that at least two holders (6a, 6b, 6c, 6d) with a tubular part (8) are provided, with the tubular parts of the at least two holders, (8) being supportable at the head (2) of the pedicle screws; and, in that a centering part (12) insertible instead of the grub screw (5) is present, which can likewise adapted to be screwed into the internal thread (3) of the pedicle screws, instead of the grub screw, can and to be gripped when the holder one of said holders (6a, 6d) is mounted on and corresponds the centering part corresponding in its external diameter D to the diameter D_1 of the grub screw (5) in order to be able to pull off the same holder (6a, 6d) or other holders (6b, 6c) and to be able to guide them as often as desired to shape matched mating surfaces of the pedicle screw, with the tubular parts (8) having an internal diameter D_2 which is only a little larger than essentially equals with a loose-fit oversize, the diameter D_1 of the grub screw, in order to position the grub screw (5) with the screwdriver (10) or the centering part (12) guided through the tubular part (8) to the head (2) of the pedicle screw such that threads of the grub screw engage with the internal thread (3) of the pedicle screws in a non-tilted manner, wherein the centering part has a central region in the longitudinal direction which can be elastically deflected up to an angle of 20° or more away from the longitudinal axis.

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2. (Previously Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the internal diameter D_2 amounts to less than 1.3 times the diameter D_1 .

3. (Previously Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the internal diameter D_2 amounts to less than 1.1 times the diameter D_1 .

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the centering part (12) has a lower diameter D_3 in its central region (13) in order, as a flexural spring, to allow an envisaged deflection.

6. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim [[4]] 1, wherein the centering part (12) has substantially circular cross-sections and jacket lines with gentle, stepless transitions in the longitudinal direction following the central region (13).

7. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 5, wherein the centering part (12) has substantially circular cross-sections and jacket lines with gentle, stepless transitions in the longitudinal direction following the central region (13).

8. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~a tubular one of said holders (6a) is formed~~ ~~combines~~ with a centering part (12) ~~as to form~~ a positioning apparatus for pedicle screws ~~in which the mounted holder (6a, 6d) has and comprises~~ a fixing element (14) ~~towards the centering part (12)~~ blocking in ~~the an~~ axial direction ~~with respect to the centering part~~, said centering part (12) in turn being screwed into the head (2) of the pedicle screw.

9. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the ~~mounted holder (6d) has a~~ fixing element ~~is~~ in the form of a clamping screw (73) which is supported at its head (72) on the holder (6d) and engages in the axial direction into an internal thread (76) at the rear part of the centering part (12).

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10. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the fixing element acts as a lever (11) on a transverse groove (15) of the centering element (12).

11. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~the a~~ tubular part (8) ~~has~~ includes a deflection apparatus (22) for a band or cable (16) pulled through the screw head (2) a projecting shoe (17) with a deflection arc (18) and, at the other end of the tubular part (8), with respect to rotation, a shape matched coupling surface (23) for a band or cable tensioner which supports the band or cable tensioner in the direction towards the pedicle screw (1).

12. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the deflection arc (18) has a radius of curvature larger than 3 mm along its base (19).

13. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the shoe (17) has a deflection roller (18a) instead of a deflection arc.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)